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Agenda item 53 (a)

Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

**Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia,
Fiji, Honduras, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru,
Nepal, Norway, Palau, Panama, Republic of Korea, Turkey, Uganda, United
Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay: draft resolution**

Agricultural technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/190 of 19 December 2007 on agricultural technology for development,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹ Agenda 21,² the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,³ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁴ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),⁵

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁶

Recalling also its resolution 63/235 of 22 December 2008 on agriculture development and food security,

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.H.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution I, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁶ See resolution 60/1.



Noting the previous work done by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, highlighting the thematic focus on agriculture, and applauding its call to increase investments in training, research and development, in particular on sustainable practices and technologies, including agricultural technologies, and to accelerate the transfer and diffusion of such technologies, information, methods and practices to reach all users including farmers, especially women, youth and indigenous people as well as those in remote rural areas,

Acknowledging the work performed by the High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, established by the Secretary-General in 2008, and the Comprehensive Framework for Action that it produced, specifically its call for increased investments in agricultural technology especially for smallholder farmers as a means to achieve global food security and poverty reduction,

Recalling the World Summit on Food Security convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009, and stressing the vital role of international cooperation in advancing and implementing agricultural technologies,

Welcoming the commitment by members of the Group of Eight in the Joint Statement on Global Food Security, adopted in L'Aquila, Italy, on 10 July 2009, to mobilize 20 billion United States dollars over three years for sustainable agriculture development,

Reaffirming its commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing the beneficial impact that the adoption of agricultural technologies can have in achieving those goals, including in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, empowering women, and ensuring environmental sustainability,

Concerned by the slow progress so far in achieving the above-mentioned goals, in particular by the fact that Africa is the only continent currently not on track to achieve any of the goals of the Millennium Declaration by 2015, and recognizing the need to intensify the efforts of the international community in its attempt to reach the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Stressing the critical role of women in the agricultural sector and their contribution in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty, and underlining further that meaningful progress in agricultural development necessitates a focus on supporting and empowering women,

Acknowledging the role and work of civil society in furthering progress in developing countries and in promoting the use of agricultural technology and the training of smallholder farmers,

Aware of the negative impact that the world financial and economic crisis has on food security and development, specifically in the agricultural sector, as well as of the regression that it could cause in the progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Considering the increasing need to innovate in agriculture and food production in order to respond to the challenges posed by, inter alia, climate change, urbanization and globalization, and recognizing that sustainable agricultural

technology can greatly contribute to the adaptation of agriculture to, and to the mitigation of the negative impact of climate change.

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on agricultural technology for development;⁷

2. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations to make greater efforts to develop and share appropriate sustainable agricultural technologies, particularly in and with developing countries, under fair, transparent, and mutually agreed terms, and to support national efforts to foster utilization of local know-how and agricultural technologies, promote agricultural technology research and enable poor rural women, men, and youth to increase sustainable agricultural productivity and enhance food security;

3. *Calls attention* to the crucial role of women in the agricultural sector, and therefore calls upon Member States to promote and support better access of women to agricultural technology information and know-how, equipment, and decision-making forums;

4. *Underlines* the importance of supporting and advancing research in improving and diversifying crop varieties that are more resistant to environmental stress, including drought and climate change, including research on conservation agriculture, as well as supporting the establishment of agricultural systems and sustainable management practices that positively contribute also to the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, and ecological balance;

5. *Encourages* Member States, civil society, and public and private institutions to develop partnerships to support financial and market services, including training, capacity-building and extension services to farmers, in particular smallholder farmers, and calls for further efforts by all stakeholders to make agricultural technologies available and affordable to smallholder farmers;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to include agricultural development as an integral part of their national sustainable development strategies and notes the positive impact that South-South cooperation can have on their implementation, and urges the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to include elements of agricultural technology, research and development in efforts to achieve relevant Millennium Development Goals;

7. *Requests* relevant United Nations organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to promote, support and facilitate the exchange of experience among Member States on ways to expand areas for agriculture through technologies that allow soil recovery and agricultural production in pressing environmental circumstances;

8. *Underscores* the instrumental role of agricultural technology in furthering sustainable development and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and therefore calls upon Member States and encourages relevant international bodies to support sustainable agricultural research and development, and in this regard calls for the continued support to the international agricultural research system, including to the International Agricultural Research Centres of the

⁷ A/64/258.

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research as well as other relevant international organizations;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.